

Appl. No. 09/448,378
Amdt. dated October 12, 2005
RCE filed October 12, 2005

2. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) A method for augmenting an immune responses in a patient having a cancerous or neoplastic disease, comprising the steps of administering flt3-ligand to the patient in an amount sufficient to generate an increase in the number of the patient's dendritic cells and administering a tumor antigen to the patient, wherein the flt3-ligand-derived dendritic cells augment the patient's tumor-specific immune responses.

7. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of administering GM-CSF.

8-19 (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) A method of treating cancerous or neoplastic disease in a patient in need thereof comprising administering flt3-ligand to the patient in an amount sufficient to generate an increase in the number of the patient's dendritic cells enhance the patient's immune response to such disease and administering a tumor antigen to the patient, wherein the flt3-ligand-derived dendritic cells augment the patient's tumor-specific immune responses.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the flt3-ligand is human flt3-ligand.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the flt3-ligand is soluble human flt3-ligand.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand is recombinant flt3-ligand.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand comprises a polypeptide that is at least 90% identical to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 28 to Xaa of SEQ ID NO:1 wherein Xaa

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is an amino acid from 160 to 235, and wherein the polypeptide retains the capacity to bind flt3.

26. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 24, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand comprises a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of amino acids 28 to Xaa of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein Xaa is an amino acid from 160 to 235, and wherein the polypeptide retains the capacity to bind flt3.

27. *(Cancelled)*

28. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 26, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand comprises the amino acid sequence of residues 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:1.

29. *(Cancelled)*

30. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 26, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand comprises the amino acid sequence of residues 28-182 of SEQ ID NO:1.

31. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 20, wherein the flt3-ligand is human flt3-ligand.

32. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 31, wherein the flt3-ligand is soluble human flt3-ligand.

33. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 32, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand is recombinant flt3-ligand.

34. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 33, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand comprises a polypeptide that is at least 90% identical to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 28 to Xaa of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein Xaa is an amino acid from 160 to 235, and wherein the polypeptide retains the capacity to bind flt3.

35. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 33, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand comprises a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of amino acids 28 to Xaa of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein Xaa is an amino acid from 160 to 235, and wherein the polypeptide retains the capacity to bind flt3.

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36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand comprises the amino acid sequence of residues 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:1.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand comprises the amino acid sequence of residues 28-182 of SEQ ID NO:1.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the cancerous disease is a tumor.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the cancerous disease is a tumor.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40 wherein the tumor is a fibrosarcoma.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41 wherein the tumor is a fibrosarcoma.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the tumor antigen is in the form of a tumor cell bearing said tumor antigen.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the tumor antigen is in the form of an isolated tumor antigen.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the antigen is administered prior to administering flt3-ligand.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the antigen is administered concurrently with flt3-ligand.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the antigen is administered after administering flt3-ligand.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the tumor antigen is in the form of a tumor cell bearing said tumor antigen.

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50. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 20, wherein the tumor antigen is in the form of an isolated tumor antigen.
51. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 20, wherein the tumor antigen is administered prior to administering flt3-ligand.
52. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 20, wherein the tumor antigen is administered concurrently with administering flt3-ligand.
53. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 20, wherein the tumor antigen is administered after administering flt3-ligand.
54. *(Withdrawn)* A method of treating cancerous or neoplastic disease in a patient in need thereof comprising administering flt3-ligand to the patient, isolating dendritic cells from the patient, exposing the dendritic cells to a tumor antigen, and administering the dendritic cells to the patient.
55. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 54, wherein the tumor antigen is in the form of a tumor cell bearing said antigen.
56. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 54, wherein the tumor antigen is in the form of an isolated tumor antigen.